

The Sydney Morning Herald.

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For Notices of Births, Marriages, Deaths, &c. See Page 8.

SUMMARY.

A terrible accident occurred on the Brazilian frontier Agulhas Negras, January 10, on the road to Brazil. Sunday.

At midnight a powder magazine exploded, and the warship sank with nearly all on board.

Three hundred people were drowned including four rear-admirals, a number of naval officers, and many Government officials.

The warship was acting as escort for the cruiser *Borbo*, which was making a Ministry tour, on a tour of inspection of sites for naval yards.

A battle lasting three hours has been fought in Tonkin between Chinese regulars and a French force.

A French column, 400 strong, surprised a body of Chinese troops pillaging villages of the French protectorate, and attacked them.

Of the Chinese 300 were killed and 200 wounded. The French lost 100.

The Liberal's absolute majority has increased to 22 as a result of the polling on Monday.

There were no startling incidents at Monday night.

The party strength is—Liberal, 267; Labor, 115; Nationalists, 77; Labour, 43.

There are 165 seats yet to be filled.

The Prime Minister is delighted that the old fashioned political parties, the social guardians of the agricultural interest and the particular friend of the farmer and the labourer has been knocked on the head.

Sir Henry Chamberlain's statement that the Liberal's programme of power centered on the Liberals had enormously increased the responsibilities of the Government.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain admits that he did not expect such a sharp political reaction as had occurred.

Tariff reform was postponed. It was not dead, and would yet be acknowledged as the only real remedy for the distress confronting agriculture and trade.

The election (Mr. Chamberlain added) were also radical reforming operation.

The Labour party attributes its success to systematic organisation.

Mr. Stein, the last President of the Orange Free State, has been elected Governor-General of Great Britain, a new government which would do justice to the Boers.

Residents of Johannesburg fear that the British Government intends to alter the Constitution, and give the Boers greater power.

The anniversary of Red Sunday (January 10) is approaching, and the Boers are swaying to a display of military force.

The Governor of St. Petersburg declared that he would make any demonstrations made by the people without mercy, and that his troops would be sent to quell them.

The police have recently discovered in the chief cities of Russia eight bomb laboratories and factories, large quantities of powder, dynamite, machine guns, and other arms.

In France, members of Deputies a motion was carried by the Socialists to refuse salaries in sub-prefets of departments was adopted by 300 votes to 219.

Fires have swept holdings in the Tumbarumba district.

Some selectors in the Wyalong district and adjoining localities have lost all the grass and fence.

A fire truck stopped the flames, which rapidly spread from the south, from crossing the railway line near Culcairn.

A trail was also burnt along the Corowa line, and prevented the fire from crossing it.

At Nanango station (Wandoan district), a number of men, mostly men of 35 years and under, fought the flames.

The most disastrous fire in the Koowaruppa district has swept many small holdings, and is spreading towards Coora and other localities.

At Melbourne yesterday the heat registered 110 deg., being the greatest since 1862.

The record was 81.5.

Great heat was experienced at Bourke and Lightning Ridge 117 deg., Cobar 115, Broken Hill and Wilcannia 114, Broken Hill 113, Cooma 107.

Following upon dusty northerly cool and dry winds, gales are expected to harden.

The Royal Commission, which is investigating the coalfield, will take a new search.

It is stated that the Royal Commissioner, Judge Murray, has reported favourably on the claims of certain miners against the Royal Commission in the African campaign.

The schooner *Ivanhoe* will take from Maryborough 140 kanakas to the New Hebrides.

Another vessel will take a batch of kanakas the Solomons.

A rowing boat containing five persons was washed away in the harbour, between Garden Island and Pitts Point.

A young man, Louis Little, was drowned. The others were rescued in an exhausted condition.

The State Attorney-General says that the Labor Act has been effective in checking striking during prohibited hours.

The Act may cause dissatisfaction if administered too rigorously. There were cases where the protection might prove to be hard and oppressive.

Cases in which persons were found upon houses premises and in the harbour, between the Warden's Court and Mining Register's office at that town.

A difficulty has arisen at Block 10 mine, Broken Hill, due to a misunderstanding between some of the engineers and firemen and the management.

The ordinary work of the mine has not been interfered with.

Frank Moore, a resident of Little Pine Creek (Warrumbungle district), was killed by his fireman during his tour.

Dr. J. R. Reid, aged 56, committed suicide at his residence, Carrington-road, Warwick, yesterday, by shooting himself with a revolver.

Decceased, who was a retired medical practitioner, has suffered from neuralgia for some years, and Monday night he was very unwell.

A hurried search was made at Yarrowal station (Warrumbungle district) on Sunday night. The house, which had been blacksmith's shop, were found.

Two members (Judge Rogers and Mr. G. A. Wilson) of the Commission which inquiries into the railway coal contract found that it was not a commercial contract.

Mr. E. W. Koon, in a minority report, considers all the Railways Commissioners were blameless for not insisting on a consideration of the case.

As the result of a conference held yesterday the strike of wharf-lumpers at Darling Island is regarded as ended.

The A.W.U. conference has decided to appeal to the Industrial Arbitration Court regarding the settlement of differences between the A.W.U. and pastoralists.

On change yesterday a fair amount of business was transacted in investment stocks, generally firm prices.

In the Mining market silver shares showed further recovery.

The R.M.S. *Ventura*, from San Francisco, reached Australia yesterday. She is expected to Sydney Saturday.

The R.M.S. *Moldavia*, from London, arrived Fremantle yesterday afternoon.

At the Sydney wool sales yesterday all good classes were very firm at late rates.

Prices for family descriptions were irregular. The sales amounted to £100,000.

A MANUFACTURER'S STOCK OF LACE CURTAINS OFFERED AT 30 PER CENT. BELOW USUAL PRICES.

Having purchased the Entire Stock of a Manufacturer, we are offering Notting-ham Lace, Guipure, Swiss, and Embroidered Curtains at 30 per cent. Under Local Prices.

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The Finest Gin Made.
Established 20 years.

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Each a few Odments in
Splendid materials and
with work of the best
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The value is simply
TO-DAY'S PRICE IS
37s 6d TO MEASURE.

MURDOCH'S IN PARK-STREET.

"When the Good News Arrives."

SYDNEY.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

CHEAP RAIL AND RIVER EXCURSIONS.
WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY (ANNIVERSARY DAY), and SATURDAY NEXT.

TO THE HAWKSLEY RIVER,
BY CONJUNCTION WITH THE STEAMER GENERAL GORDON.

7½ MILES BY RAIL, SO BY STEAMER.
With 1st class by Rail and 2nd by Steamer.
Wednesday at 9 a.m., Friday (Anniversary Day) at 9.15 a.m. and 1 p.m., and on Saturday Next at 9.10 a.m. Connecting Train will leave Milson's Point at 8.30 a.m.

The Train will occupy about one hour.

RETURN FARES from Sydney and Suburban Stations, including Steamer Trip—First-class, £6; Second-class, £3.6d; Third-class, £1.6d.

Refreshments can be obtained on board the Steamer at reasonable rates.

TO PARKESALE (GEORGE'S RIVER).
Trains will leave Sydney at 8.25 a.m. TO-DAY (WEDNESDAY) and at 8.25 a.m. and 1.25 p.m. on SATURDAY DAY, for Penrith.

On FRIDAY, Combined Rail and River Tickets will be issued by train booking offices from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. but steamer will leave Vomo at 10.30 a.m. and 1.25 p.m. only. Twenty-four miles by rail, 16 miles by steamer.

RETURN FARES from Sydney (including Steamer Trip) £1.6d; Second-class, £1.6d.

REFRESHMENTS can be obtained on board the Steamer.

TO THE NEPEAN RIVER, VIA PENRITH.

Trains will leave Sydney at 8.25 a.m. TO-DAY (WEDNESDAY) and at 8.25 a.m. and 1.25 p.m. on SATURDAY DAY, for Penrith.

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RETURN FARES from Sydney (including Steamer Trip) £1.6d; First-class, £1.6d; Second-class, £1.6d.

REFRESHMENTS can be obtained on board the Steamer.

TO BOUND TRIPS BETWEEN SYDNEY, HAWKSLEY, NEWPORT, AND MANLY.

TO-DAY (WEDNESDAY), FRIDAY (ANNIVERSARY DAY), and SATURDAY NEXT.

Excursions will travel by train leaving Sydney at 8.25 a.m. and Milson's Point at 9.15 a.m., and alight at Hawksley, or travel from Sydney by steamer leaving Circular Quay at 9.30 a.m. for Manly, there joining the train.

FARES (including Journey by steamer, coach, and ferry) £1.6d; First-class, £1.6d; Second-class, £1.6d.

Tickets can be obtained at Sydney, Strathfield, Milson's Point, and Manly Ferry Wharf, Circular Quay.

For full particulars see Handbook.

ANNUVERSARY DAY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued from all Stations to all Stations by all trains until Friday, January 26, available for return within one calendar month from date of issue.

CHEAP EXCURSION TRAINS.

In addition to the Cheap Tickets officially issued on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, similar CHEAP TRAINS to Manly, and Hawksley, similar to those issued on Sat. and 1/2 mile second-class return (minimum £1), will be issued by the well-known steamship companies.

THE STEAMERS WILL be open for the return of tickets issued on Sat. and 1/2 mile second-class return (minimum £1), will be issued by the well-known steamship companies.

FARES (including Journey by steamer, coach, and ferry) £1.6d; First-class, £1.6d; Second-class, £1.6d.

Tickets can be obtained at Sydney, Strathfield, Milson's Point, and Manly Ferry Wharf, Circular Quay.

For full particulars see Handbook.

ILLAWARRA LINE.

THURSDAY, JAN. 25, 1.20 p.m., to Kiama; 8.35 p.m. and 8 p.m. to Wollongong.

FRIDAY, JAN. 26, 7.30 a.m., to Kiama; 7.30 a.m. to Nowra; 8.30 a.m. to Wollongong.

SOUTHERN LINE.

THURSDAY, JAN. 25, 8.15 p.m., to Goulburn; 8.17 p.m. to Picton.

FRIDAY, JAN. 26, 8 a.m., to Bundanoon.

NORTHERN LINE.

THURSDAY, JAN. 25, 8.30 p.m., to Newcastle;

FRIDAY, JAN. 26, 8.15 a.m., to Newcastle.

WESTERN LINE.

THURSDAY, JAN. 25, 10.10 p.m., from Orange (two stations west of Mount Victoria).

FRIDAY, JAN. 26, 6.15 a.m., from Mount Victoria (two stations west of Penrith only).

CLOSING OF GOODS SHEDS.

On FRIDAY, January 26, the Goods Shed at Alannah will close, but Darling Harbour and Sydney Goods Shed will be open till 10 a.m. for the delivery of perishables only. The Goods Shed at all other Stations will be closed except for the receipt and delivery of perishables.

The General Booking Office will be open until 10 a.m. only.

For times of trains at intermediate stations, and other information, see handbook, obtainable from all stationmasters.

By order of the Commissioners.

(31-19) H. McLAUGHLIN, Secretary.

AMUSEMENTS.

MANY WATER CHUTE.

Bole Lanes and Diversions, Mr. L. DE GROEN.

TO-NIGHT, WEDNESDAY, TO-NIGHT.

ANOTHER CONTINUOUS REPERTOIRE OF THE ORIGINAL GOTHIAN TRIO.

With the Original Gotiani Trio, Mr. J. L. LEADER, Reporter, and Humorous Vocal Specialities.

THE VICE-REGAL MILITARY BAND (full strength), personally conducted by Mr. De Groot, will play Odeon, "Majestic" (Albert), Green Room, "Theatre Royal," "Cinematograph," "The Country Girl," and other classical and popular items.

Mr. A. C. COOPER, the leading Cellist of the Band, will play his own compositions. "The Last Stand" (Bullfinch), "Armeniania" of the V.H. Band, "Adriana, the dancing Cyclist"; Mr. FREDERICK SHAW, and Monope, "Duke of Marlborough," etc., etc.

Mr. J. L. LEADER, "Richard III" and the Ferry Co. Office, ONE SHILLING.

The Special Boat from 10 p.m. will positively close.

Budapest Manager: FRED. L. BEAKER.

RATATIONAL SOCIETY OF N.S.W.

EASTER SHOW.

11th to 16th APRIL, 1906.

COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION PRIZES FOR RAILWAY.

SYDNEY, 10th APRIL, 1906.

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A GOOD APPETITE

Only by having a perfect acting liver and good digestion—both can easily be obtained by taking

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They are a reliable remedy for the cure of
BILIOUSNESS, LASSITUDE, POOR APPETITE,
IMPAIRED DIGESTION, CONSTIVENESS,
WIND AND PAINS IN THE STOMACH, DISCOMFORT AFTER
MEALS.

They cleanse the system, give tone to the digestive organs, and will, if taken according to directions, restore you to sound and vigorous health.

BEECHAM'S PILLS are specially suitable for Females of all ages. Every woman who values health should read the instructions wrapped round each box.

Gold everywhere in house, price is 1d (10 mills) and 1d (10 mills).

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BUY ONLY

NESTLE'S MILK.

The Greatest Success of the Age.

HOLBROOK'S
GENUINE WORCESTERSHIRE
SAUCE.
THE PREMIER SAUCE OF THE WORLD.

IT'S EASY IF YOU LIVE IN THE CITY.

It's easy to compare values if you live
in the city. You'll find these eye openers,
and lower priced than any so-called whole-
salers.

A CHARMING SOLID OAK SUITE FOR THE BEDROOM.

A new and charming suite in genuine Oak, comprising WARDROBE, with magnificent Dressing Mirror, 17 inches wide and 5ft high. WASH-AND-3FT. ART-TILES—very charming design. DRESSING TABLE, beautifully fitted with copper furnishings. TWO CHAIRS to match. £20.

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A. T. PALING'S.
VIOLINS from £10.
CELLOS from £15.
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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS from £5.
AUTOPHARMS from £5.
CONCERTINAS from £5.
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**PHANOS AT FIVE MILLION PER WEEK, NO
DEPOSIT.**

F. ABERGHEISTER and CO.,
Agents for the Caledonian Pipe and Blower
Plants.

Agents for the Celebrated Pleyel and Blowers.

Agents for the Caledonian Pipe and Blower
Plants.

consideration, owing to an alleged extra risk of cause fire, and also alleged increase in coal consumption.

Our colleague, Mr. Knox, does not sign this report, as he desires to further emphasise his views on points on which we are not in complete agreement.

(Signed) F. E. Rogers, President.
G. A. Wilson, Commissioner.

MINORITY REPORT.

M.R. KNOX DIFFERS.

DEPARTMENTAL ERROR.

I regret very much that it is not possible for me to add to the report of my colleagues as an adequate expression of my opinions concerning the acceptance of a certain coal contract, or as to the manner in which it was done. I submit the following statement as embodying the conclusions arrived at by me on the evidence heard by the commission in this matter.

The terms of the contract, as far as I can understand, were as follows:—(1) the price of coal; (2) the amount of coal to be supplied; (3) the time of delivery; (4) the quality between the Lithgow coal and that from the Metropolitan Colliery, all of which are based on the original terms of the contract or in the details stated to this report.

The order in which I deal with the various features of this transaction is as follows:—(1) the price of coal; (2) the quality of the coal; (3) the control of the market; (4) exclusion of the ironore coal; (5) the tender for Ivanhoe; (6) the tenders for coal; (7) the distribution of the coal supplies; (8) the difference of opinion between the Commissioners.

HIGH PRICE OF COAL.

During the first year of the development of the Great Southern and other mines have brought about a fall of from 15 to 25 per cent. in the value of coal at the pit-head, and the market price has been reduced to 25 to 28 per cent. while the tenders for Ivanhoe and the other collieries have been increased by 10 per cent. (7) the distribution of the coal supplies; (8) the difference of opinion between the Commissioners.

THE COMMISSIONERS' DIFFERENCE.

It would seem from the statements put before us that the Chief Commissioner, after joining in the acceptance of the tender for the Macleay, had doubts about placing the whole of the western contract with the Lithgow Association, though he finally offered it to them. The whole affair is, however, in other mines competing for the Sydney market, notably the Lithgow collieries and that of the Metropolitan Colliery.

It should have been possible therefore for the Commissioners to have purchased their supplies from the last-named places, and even to have obtained a better price than in 1905, but the same prices were given in all these years.

Certainly in 1905 the position justified the retention of the Lithgow Association, and, indeed, against his expressed disapproval of the course they were taking, the Commissioner said, "I am not for a moment going to give up the Lithgow Association."

But the Association, in its turn, had no right to the department on June 28, 1905.

No attempt appears to have been made, however, by either party to bring the development of the Metropolitan Colliery under the market value, and their tender for the 1905-6 contract was accepted by the three Commissioners at 28 per cent. above the rate of 15 to 20 per cent. asked by the company receiving a contract for three years in return for this concession.

As to the Lithgow Association, it is clear that they should not have been retained, and the Commissioner, after objecting to the price paid for their coal in 1903 and 1904, and again in 1905, took no steps to secure a reduction of the quantity they were supplying.

COMMISSIONERS BLAMEWORTHY.

I am therefore of opinion that that unduly high prices have been paid for the coal purchased from the Lithgow Association, and that the three Commissioners are all blameworthy for not insisting on a considerably reduction in the rates asked for in the 1905-6 contract.

DURATION OF CONTRACT.

If the tendency of the coal market be not still downward, the more general adoption of the shorter contracts will be expected to lead to a cheaper production, and the acceptance of contracts for three or four years would therefore seem unwise.

As stated above, the tenders accepted in 1905 committed the department to the purchase of coal for three years, and not for a long term, while, in addition, the Commissioners have bound themselves under the singularly inept provisions of their special contract to accept tenders for the districts visited for the whole period, and a sufficient explanation for this disregard of general practice is that the contract accepted has not been offered by the commissioners. One of them, indeed, argued in an answer to me that the department was not, in his opinion, concerned with market rates, but only with the tenders they received. The results seem to show that this view pre-empted.

THE PAINTERS' CONFERENCE.

In appointing delegates to meet representatives of the Painters' Union, the Commissioners had not, the secretary points out, contemplated entering into any discussion with reference to the price of paint, or the cost of production, and for any matter connected with the union.

The delegate chosen is for their delegates to carry the points for discussion, and it is for the delegates representing the Masters' and Apprentices' Association in London, in co-operation with the authorities in the Colonies, to decide the need for it.

HIGH ANTICIPATIONS.

Sir Joseph Ward, New Zealand's energetic Minister of Industries and Commerce, particularly interested as he is in coal, has now

arrived in Sydney to inspect the coal market, and that the three Commissioners are all blameworthy for not insisting on a considerably reduction in the rates asked for in the 1905-6 contract.

TRADES AND LABOUR.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

At the inquiry held on the body of Norman de Mair, who died on Monday at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital from the effects of a heart attack, a verdict of accidental death was returned.

EXCLUSION OF IRONDALE.

The whole tenor of the evidence submitted to us is that the use of coal from this mine is safe, and need not be warrant to the belief that it was not. It was not safe, but the miners did not consider that it was their duty, or that their officers, to gather information about the mining practices of the mine, and must be blamed for this.

The miners, however, were not ignorant of the fact that the coal from the Lithgow Association was falling off, and should thus have been made aware that there would be sharp competition for the coal, and that the price accepted has not been offered by the commissioners. One of them, indeed, argued in an answer to me that the department was not, in his opinion, concerned with market rates, but only with the tenders they received. The results seem to show that this view pre-empted.

CONTENTS ON THE MARKET.

It is clear from the evidence taken, and from the return furnished by the Lithgow Association, that the western mines had lost much of their market, and that the miners' associations did not consider that it was their duty, or that their officers, to gather information about the mining practices of the mine, and must be blamed for this.

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CASUALTIES.

AN INFANT'S BODY.

On Saturday evening a seven-year-old girl named Nellie Blance, aged 20 years, employed at Yeats street, Neutral Bay, was found lying on the floor, with her clothes torn, and she was seen by a doctor to be unconscious. She was found to have suffered a paroxysm of fits, and three men were injured. One had a rib broken, and the third was seriously bruised about the arms and body. They were admitted to the hospital. The surviving members are John Longhurst, Thos. Eudal, and George Murray.

LOOKING FOR MARKETS.

Mr. Gow's mission to the Far East, rather than to New Zealand, was a success, and he will make every effort to interest the Chinese in the products of Australia.

As stated above, the tenders accepted in 1905 committed the department to the purchase of coal for three years, and not for a long term, while, in addition, the Commissioners have bound themselves under the singularly inept provisions of their special contract to accept tenders for the districts visited for the whole period, and a sufficient explanation for this disregard of general practice is that the contract accepted has not been offered by the commissioners.

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COLLAPSE OF SCAFFOLDING.

THREE MEN INJURED.

ALBURY, Tuesday.—After a afternoon, while miners were being assisted at Goulburn railway bridge, the scaffolding collapsed, and three men were injured. One had a rib broken, and the third was seriously bruised about the arms and body. They were admitted to the hospital. The surviving members are John Longhurst, Thos. Eudal, and George Murray.

PREVENTION OF CRIME.

A DETECTIVE'S SUGGESTIONS.

COPING WITH GAMBLING.

MELBOURNE, Tuesday.—Detective-sergeant D. O. Donnell gave evidence before the Police Commission to-day on the prevention of crime, and the police greater control over criminals.

The police, with Mr. Ridder, P.M., and Dr. Bracken, went to the locality, and held an inquiry. Two or three men were found on the deceased. John Carson, was found on the deceased. The body must have been lying near the wall of a house.

THE LOCOTOMISTS were certainly opposed to the ironore, and the departmental managers of industrial businesses must be prepared on occasions to set aside the requirements of the State, and to assume the consequences of such action. I regard the rejection of the ironore, and the two units, and unfair to the owners of that mine, that an expressed intention of allocating part of the ironore contract to this mine would have been done, if the price asked by the Lithgow Association.

TENDERS FROM IVANHOE.

The two Commissioners, in their evidence, state that the Irondale and Ivanhoe coal could not be exported. The information furnished on this point is not conclusive, but it seems certain that all the mines at Lithgow, and the two just mentioned, are working the same, and a number of coal samples from the even working faces completely visible in composition. I hold, therefore, that the ironore, and the coal, should have been given to the Irondale proprietors, and that the equipment with rock-breaking machinery, and the tools required to keep the ironore in order to keep the train up to time, but no complaints when engines with coal were used, and the ironore was burnt in furnaces suitably arranged for such fuel, there was little actual detection of the use of coal, and that the ironore, and the coal, should be burnt in boilers thus fitted. And, even if the Commissioners had doubts about working the western system with a coal train, they should have been given the use of that from the associated mines (the product of two is admitted to be better than ironore), and the ironore should have been burnt in furnaces suitably arranged for such fuel, then the 1904-5, and that the reduced charge for coal in that year, was due to the purchase from this mine, should have been received under protest, and the tenders were dealt with.

THE LOCOTOMISTS were certainly opposed to the ironore, and the departmental managers of industrial businesses must be prepared on occasions to set aside the requirements of the State, and to assume the consequences of such action. I regard the rejection of the ironore, and the two units, and unfair to the owners of that mine, that an expressed intention of allocating part of the ironore contract to this mine would have been done, if the price asked by the Lithgow Association.

TESTS BY THE DEPARTMENT.

The system heretofore adopted, as described by the chief mechanical engineer, has been to burn the coal to test its economic value, and to determine whether it is suitable for steam purposes, and to ascertain its effect to all the delays inseparable from such traffic. The trials have been conducted by different drivers and firemen, and though the drivers and firemen have been employed, while no attempt appears to have been made to ensure that such coal selected for trial was the best available, and the most suitable conditions for economic consumption. Indeed the chief mechanical engineer contended that though the ironore was burnt in the furnaces, and a comparison was made between the ironore and the coal, he was right in making the tests, which were to guide him in the use of the boiler.

THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD, Mr. H. Morris, has secured a copy of the "George Street Cemetery," and I was com- mended and attended service for some years past. The only Protestant church worth the name in the city of Sydney is the George Street, and Frank Philip—October 17, 1898, was the wattle-and-plaster one. St. Philip's was rebuilt, and consecrated in 1899, and the finance committee Messrs. Carter, Clark, and Hartwell, of Hartwell, Richardson, and Carter, Ltd., Hardwick, publishing committee, Messrs. Catto, Carter, and Clarke, Jan. 1, 1899.

A CHARMING TONIC.

KOLA-CUP strengthens the DIGESTION.

FERREY'S Phosphorus for THE NERVE HEAD, and STOMACH.—Advt.

NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

ADVENT OF THE MACLEAY FARMER.

HIS DEVELOPMENT AND APPEARANCE TO-DAY.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.)

WELLINGTON, Jan. 18.—Information was sought as to the reason for which an article appeared in the "Sydney Morning Herald" the other day urging that an adequate representation of Australia should be made at our international exhibition a little information regarding the arrangement was given, and it is admitted that Penrith, Harden, and Junee (the last two for east of the requirements), are the stations which the Lithgow Association have now the right to represent.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUPPLIES.

It will be noted from the specification for the 1906 contract (exhibit M), that then, as in former years, the Commissioners agreed to receive tenders for the supply of coal to the ironore, and it is admitted that Penrith, Harden, and Junee (the last two for east of the requirements), are the stations which the Lithgow Association have now the right to represent.

MINORITY REPORT.

M.R. KNOX DIFFERS.

DEPARTMENTAL ERROR.

I regret very much that it is not possible for me to add to the report of my colleagues as an adequate expression of my opinions concerning the acceptance of a certain coal contract, or the manner in which it was done.

I submit the following statement as embodying the conclusions arrived at by me on the evidence heard by the commission in this matter.

The terms of the contract, as far as I can understand, were as follows:—(1) the price of coal; (2) the amount of coal to be supplied; (3) the time of delivery; (4) the quality between the Lithgow coal and that from the Metropolitan Colliery, all of which are based on the original terms of the contract, or in the details stated to this report.

The order in which I deal with the various features of this transaction is as follows:—(1) the price of coal; (2) the quality of the coal; (3) the control of the market; (4) exclusion of the ironore coal; (5) the tender for Ivanhoe; (6) the tenders for coal; (7) the distribution of the coal supplies; (8) the difference of opinion between the Commissioners.

HIGH PRICE OF COAL.

During the first year of the development of the Great Southern and other mines have brought about a fall of from 15 to 25 per cent. in the value of coal at the pit-head, and the market price has been reduced to 25 to 28 per cent. while the tenders for Ivanhoe and the other collieries have been increased by 10 per cent. (7) the distribution of the coal supplies; (8) the difference of opinion between the Commissioners.

THE COMMISSIONERS' DIFFERENCE.

It would seem from the statements put before us that the Chief Commissioner, after joining in the acceptance of the tender for the Macleay, had doubts about placing the whole of the western contract with the Lithgow Association, though he finally offered it to them.

The whole affair is, however, in other mines competing for the Sydney market, notably the Lithgow collieries and that of the Metropolitan Colliery.

It should have been possible therefore for the Commissioners to have purchased their supplies from the last-named places, and even to have obtained a better price than in 1905, but the same prices were given in all these years.

Certainly in 1905 the position justified the retention of the Lithgow Association, and, indeed, against his expressed disapproval of the course they were taking, the Commissioner said, "I am not for a moment going to give up the Lithgow Association."

But the Association, in its turn, had no right to the department on June 28, 1905.

No attempt appears to have been made, however, by either party to bring the development of the Metropolitan Colliery under the market value, and their tender for the 1905-6 contract was accepted by the three Commissioners at 28 per cent. above the rate of 15 to 20 per cent. asked by the company receiving a contract for three years in return for this concession.

As to the Lithgow Association, it is clear that they should not have been retained, and the Commissioner, after objecting to the price paid for their coal in 1903 and 1904, and again in 1905, took no steps to secure a reduction of the quantity they were supplying.

COMMISSIONERS BLAMEWORTHY.

I am therefore of opinion that that unduly high prices have been paid for the coal purchased from the Lithgow Association, and that the three Commissioners are all blameworthy for not insisting on a considerably reduction in the rates asked for in the 1905-6 contract.

DURATION OF CONTRACT.

THE PAINTERS' CONFERENCE.

In appointing delegates to meet representatives of the Painters' Union, the Commissioners had not, the secretary points out, contemplated entering into any discussion with reference to the price of paint, or the cost of production, and for any matter connected with the union.

The delegate chosen is for their delegates to carry the points for discussion, and it is for the delegates representing the Masters' and Apprentices' Association in London, in co-operation with the authorities in the Colonies, to decide the need for it.

HIGH ANTICIPATIONS.

Sir Joseph Ward, New Zealand's energetic Minister of Industries and Commerce, particularly interested as he is in coal, has now

arrived in Sydney to inspect the coal market, and that the three Commissioners are all blameworthy for not insisting on a considerably reduction in the rates asked for in the 1905-6 contract.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

At the inquiry held on the body of Norman de Mair, who died on Monday at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital from the effects of a heart attack, a verdict of accidental death was returned.

BENEVOLENT ASYLUM INMATES AND LIQUOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.
Sir.—I am rather embarrassed to say Mr. Ashton, who I think is in some case "the last man standing" in the "Benevolent Asylum" for the inmates of the Liverpool B.A., whom I think in some cases the labels by saying that their "only desire is to live and die in peace" and the like, casts a serious reflection upon many who have devoted, perhaps, more time, trouble, and expense in trying to comfort, comfort, those men and give spiritual consolation to those who are nearing a world where neither beer nor tobacco constitutes a bliss or otherwise than the like. U.L.

I hardly expect to carry Mr. Ashton with me when I state that his son, Mr. Ashton, has in the past deprived many of those men of the few pounds that might have been put by for the welfare of the inmates of the Liverpool B.A. and nearly all the great men of to-day confirm this. Since the above is the public's view, I trust the members of this great humanitarian revival that is sweeping over Mr. Ashton's soul, and in order that he may understand the enormous wealth produced from the liquor traffic, causing a corresponding amount of poverty, I will add that the Society has a protest against the unfeeling treatment of the Government toward the inmates of the Liverpool B.A., take immediate steps to have the same removed, and see that the good people, where all the conditions that are necessary to the happiness of the inmates among us, may be able to contribute in heaven on earth.

Mr. Ashton, with his young nucleus, declares that he will believe in drinklessness, and that he is still the time holding up a traffic that, regulate it as you like, will it exists will continually be increased. He adds that the cause of moderation, and will reap a crop of drunkenness."

Yes, Mr. Ashton, is a clever, suspending, but, in my opinion, a very bad tryout to throw the eyes of the people, who know that the trade he represents cares very little for the welfare of humanity, and goes on its best to ruin the very copper of the names of a Benevolent Asylum. I am etc. Warragerring. JAMES MARION.

JAN. 22.—
REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.
Sir.—Replying to your initial letter, I enclose a previous letter of mine on registration to the Registrar-General of the 17th January, referring to the Re "Treasurer-General's" statement that the Hon. Mr. F. G. Smith is not in agreement with my facts, inasmuch as the department referred to deals with two-thirds of the inmates of New South Wales.

Notice is hereby given that the FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING of the Society for the Relief of Destitute Children will be held at the ASYLUM, RANDWICK, on WEDNESDAY, 21st instant.

BUSINESS.

Annual Report of the Directors for 1905.

Treasury's Balance-sheets for 1905.

Minutes of the Board of Directors.

JOSEPH COULTER, Superintendent and Secretary.

JANUARY 17th, 1906.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

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For further information apply to the General Manager, 10 Pitt-street, Sydney.

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REGISTRATION OF DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The AGM of this Society will be held in the Hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, Castlereagh-street, on TUESDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 1906.

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J. M. BROOK,

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